CLAIMS

1.   (Original) In a network, a method of checking connectivity between endpoints, said method comprising:

sending a message from an originating endpoint to a first terminating endpoint, said message directing said first terminating endpoint to enable detection of continuity check cells used for checking connectivity between said originating endpoint and said first terminating endpoint, wherein said first terminating endpoint is programmed to suppress generation of continuity check cells; and

sending continuity check cells from said originating endpoint to said first terminating endpoint, wherein said originating endpoint is programmed to refrain from acting in response to an absence of continuity check cells from said first terminating endpoint.

2.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said first terminating endpoint is programmed to suppress generation of continuity check cells in response to said message.

3.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said message is a setup message used for setting up communication between said originating endpoint and said first terminating endpoint.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said message is an add-party message for setting up communication between said originating endpoint and a second terminating endpoint over a communication path that <u>includes at least a portion of</u> ~~has some commonality with~~ a communication path between said originating endpoint and said first terminating endpoint~~‑~~.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said originating endpoint <u>sends the message directing the first terminating endpoint to enable detection of continuity check cells to the first terminating endpoint through an intermediary, and sends continuity check cells from to the first terminating endpoint through the intermediary</u> ~~comprises a switch~~.

6.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said first terminating endpoint is one of multiple terminating endpoints receiving broadcast messages from said originating endpoint in a point-to-multipoint connection.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the first terminating endpoint alerts a network device other than the original endpoint when the first terminating endpoint does not receive the connectivity check cells from the originating endpoint as specified in the message from the originating endpoint directing the first terminating endpoint to enable detection of continuity check cells said network is an asynchronous transfer mode network.

8.   (Currently Amended) In a network, a method of checking connectivity between endpoints, said method comprising:
        receiving at a first terminating endpoint a message sent from an originating endpoint, said message directing said first terminating endpoint to enable detection of continuity check cells used for checking connectivity between said originating endpoint and said first terminating endpoint, wherein said first terminating endpoint is programmed to suppress generation of continuity check cells; and
        providing notification to a network manager other than the originating endpoint when continuity check cells from said originating endpoint are not detected.

9.   (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein said originating endpoint is programmed to refrain from acting in response to an absence of continuity check cells from said first terminating endpoint.

10.   (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein said first terminating endpoint is programmed to suppress generation of continuity check cells in response to said message.

11.   (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein said message is a setup message used for setting up communication between said originating endpoint and said first terminating endpoint.

12.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 8 wherein said message is an add-party message for setting up communication between said originating endpoint and a second terminating endpoint over a communication path that <u>includes at least a portion of</u> ~~has some commonality with~~ a communication path between said originating endpoint and said first terminating endpoint.

13.   (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein said first terminating endpoint is one of multiple terminating endpoints receiving broadcast messages from said originating endpoint in a point-to-multipoint connection.

14.   (Original) A computer-usable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer system to perform a method of checking connectivity between endpoints in a network, said method comprising:

sending a message from an originating endpoint to a first terminating endpoint, said message directing said first terminating endpoint to enable detection of continuity check cells used for checking connectivity between said originating endpoint and said first terminating endpoint, wherein said first terminating endpoint is programmed to suppress generation of continuity check cells; and

sending continuity check cells from said originating endpoint to said first terminating endpoint, wherein said originating endpoint is programmed to refrain from acting in response to an absence of continuity check cells from said first terminating endpoint.

15.   (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 14 wherein said first terminating endpoint is programmed to suppress generation of continuity check cells in response to said message.

16.   (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of Claim 14 wherein said computer system <u>sends the message directing the first terminating endpoint to enable detection of continuity check cells to the first terminating endpoint through an intermediary, and sends continuity check cells from to the first terminating endpoint through the intermediary</u> ~~comprises a switch~~.

17.   (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 14 wherein said first terminating endpoint is one of multiple terminating endpoints receiving broadcast messages from said originating endpoint in a point-to-multipoint connection.

18.   (Currently Amended) A computer-usable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer system to perform a method of checking connectivity between endpoints in a network, said method comprising:
    receiving at a first terminating endpoint a message sent from an originating endpoint, said message directing said first terminating endpoint to enable detection of continuity check cells used for checking connectivity between said originating endpoint and said first terminating endpoints, wherein said first terminating endpoint is programmed to suppress generation of continuity check cells; and
    providing notification to a network manager other than the originating endpoint when continuity check cells from said originating endpoint are not detected.

19.   (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 18 wherein said originating endpoint is programmed to refrain from acting in response to an absence of continuity check cells from said first terminating endpoint.

20.   (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 18 wherein said first terminating endpoint is programmed to suppress generation of continuity check cells in response to said message.

21.   (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 18 wherein said first terminating endpoint is one of multiple terminating endpoints receiving broadcast messages from said originating endpoint in a point-to-multipoint connection.

22.   (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of Claim 18 wherein said computer system sends the message directing the first terminating endpoint to enable detection of continuity check cells to the first terminating endpoint through an intermediary, and sends

continuity check cells ~~from~~ to the first terminating endpoint through the intermediary ~~comprises a switch~~.

23.   (Original) A system for checking connectivity between endpoints in a network, said system comprising:

means for sending a message from an originating endpoint to a first terminating endpoint, said message directing said first terminating endpoint to enable detection of continuity check cells used for checking connectivity between said originating endpoint and said first terminating endpoint, wherein said first terminating endpoint is programmed to suppress generation of continuity check cells; and

means for sending continuity check cells from said originating endpoint to said first terminating endpoint, wherein said originating endpoint is programmed to refrain from acting in response to an absence of continuity check cells from said first terminating endpoint.

24.   (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 23 wherein the first terminating endpoint alerts a network device other than the original endpoint when the first terminating endpoint does not receive the connectivity check cells from the originating endpoint as specified in the message from the originating endpoint directing the first terminating endpoint to enable detection of continuity check cells ~~said first terminating endpoint is programmed to suppress generation of continuity check cells in response to said message~~.

25.   (Currently Amended) A system for checking connectivity between endpoints in a network, said system comprising:

means for receiving at a first terminating endpoint a message sent from an originating endpoint, said message directing said first terminating endpoint to enable detection of continuity check cells used for checking connectivity between said originating endpoint and said first terminating endpoints, wherein said first terminating endpoint is programmed to suppress generation of continuity check cells; and

means for providing notification to a network manager other than the originating endpoint when continuity check cells from said originating endpoint are not detected.

26.   (Original) The system of Claim 25 wherein said originating endpoint is programmed to refrain from acting in response to an absence of continuity check cells from said first terminating endpoint.

27.   (Original) The system of Claim 25 wherein said first terminating endpoint is programmed to suppress generation of continuity check cells in response to said message.

28.   (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 25 further comprising:
        <u>means for sending the message directing the first terminating endpoint to enable detection of continuity check cells to the first terminating endpoint through an intermediary; and</u>
        <u>means for sends continuity check cells from to the first terminating endpoint through the intermediary</u> ~~means for notifying a network manager when continuity check cells from said originating endpoint are not detected at said first originating endpoint~~.

29.   (Currently Amended) A device comprising:
        a memory unit; and
        a controller coupled to said memory unit, said controller for ~~executing a method of~~ checking connectivity between endpoints in a network <u>by</u>~~, said method comprising~~:
        sending a message to a first terminating endpoint, said message directing said first terminating endpoint to enable detection of continuity check cells used for checking connectivity between said device and said first terminating endpoint, wherein said first terminating endpoint is programmed to suppress generation of continuity check cells;
        sending continuity check cells to said first terminating endpoint; and
        refraining from acting in response to an absence of continuity check cells from said first terminating endpoint.

30.   (Original) The device of Claim 29 wherein said first terminating endpoint is programmed to suppress generation of continuity check cells in response to said message.

31.   (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 29 wherein said device <u>sends the message directing the first terminating endpoint to enable detection of continuity check cells to</u>

the first terminating endpoint through an intermediary, and sends continuity check cells from to the first terminating endpoint through the intermediary ~~comprises a switch~~.

32.   (Original) The device of Claim 29 wherein said message is a broadcast message sent to multiple terminating endpoints including said first terminating endpoint.

33.   (Currently Amended) A device comprising:

a memory unit; and

a controller coupled to said memory unit, said controller for ~~executing a method of~~ checking connectivity between endpoints in a network by~~, said method comprising~~:

receiving a message sent from an originating endpoint, said message directing said device to enable detection of continuity check cells used for checking connectivity between said originating endpoint and said device;

suppressing generation of continuity check cells; and

providing notification to a network manager other than the originating endpoint when continuity check cells from said originating endpoint are not detected.

34.   (Original) The device of Claim 33 wherein said originating endpoint is programmed to refrain from acting in response to an absence of continuity check cells from said device.

35.   (Original) The device of Claim 33 wherein said device is programmed to suppress generation of continuity check cells in response to said message.

36.   (Original) The device of Claim 33 wherein said device is one of multiple devices receiving broadcast messages from said originating endpoint in a point-to-multipoint connection.